



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District  
4155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435  
www.mvk.usace.army.mil



# Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	ARL-MVK-2012-974
EVALUATOR:	Mr. Anthony Lobred
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5470
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	Anthony.R.Lobred@usace.army.mil
DATE:	November 6, 2012
EXPIRATION DATE:	November 27, 2012

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality are considering an application for a Department of the Army Permit and State Water Quality Certification for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Registrations and Certifications Section at Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:  
BHP Billiton  
6100 South Yale, Ste 500  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

Name of Agent:  
Mr. Michael E. Goff  
Headwaters, Incorporated  
Post Office Box 820188  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39182

Location of Work: (See attached Table), within the Red River drainage basin, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit for the mechanized land clearing and associated discharge of dredged and/or fill material into 9.823 acres of jurisdictional wetlands for the construction of 1 natural gas well site and associated access road.



The stated purpose is to produce and transport natural gas extracted from below the earth's surface casing in and around the Haynesville Shale formation.

The following is a breakdown of the activities associated with the construction:

- Well Site and Access Road - The proposed well pad is approximately 410 feet wide x 485 feet in length. The well pad would be covered with a total of approximately 14,700 cubic yards of sandy clay fill, which will come from a clean commercial source. The total well pad construction work would impact 4.565 acres of jurisdictional bottomland hardwood wetlands.
- Access Road - The proposed access road is 1.084 mile in length. The access road would be covered with a total of approximately 8,481 cubic yards of sandy clay fill, which will come from a clean commercial source. The proposed access road construction would impact 5.258 acres of jurisdictional wetlands. Of this amount, there are 2.629 acres of permanent impacts and 2.629 acres of temporary impacts. The breakdown of wetland impacts is as follows: 1.612 acres of emergent wetlands and 3.646 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands.

Dominant vegetation within some of the wetland areas consisted of southern hackberry, water tupelo, box elder, nuttall oak, bald cypress, and various emergent species.

The dominant soil mapped within the project area is Moreland clay, somewhat poorly drained flooded. This soils is considered hydric according to both the Caddo Parish Soil Surveys.

Mitigation for wetlands impacted by the construction activities would be in the form of purchasing credits from an approved mitigation bank within the watershed.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment, and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.



State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, state lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the proposed undertaking upon these properties: The permit area is comprised of low-lying wetlands within no existing or subsiding natural levee landforms; and therefore, has a very low potential for yielding unidentified cultural deposits that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of the public notice have been sent to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, Federally-recognized Tribes and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to historic properties that could result from the proposed activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not likely adversely affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This evaluation is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the unauthorized activities described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the unauthorized activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.



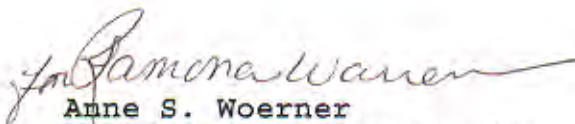
Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project.

All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary.

Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

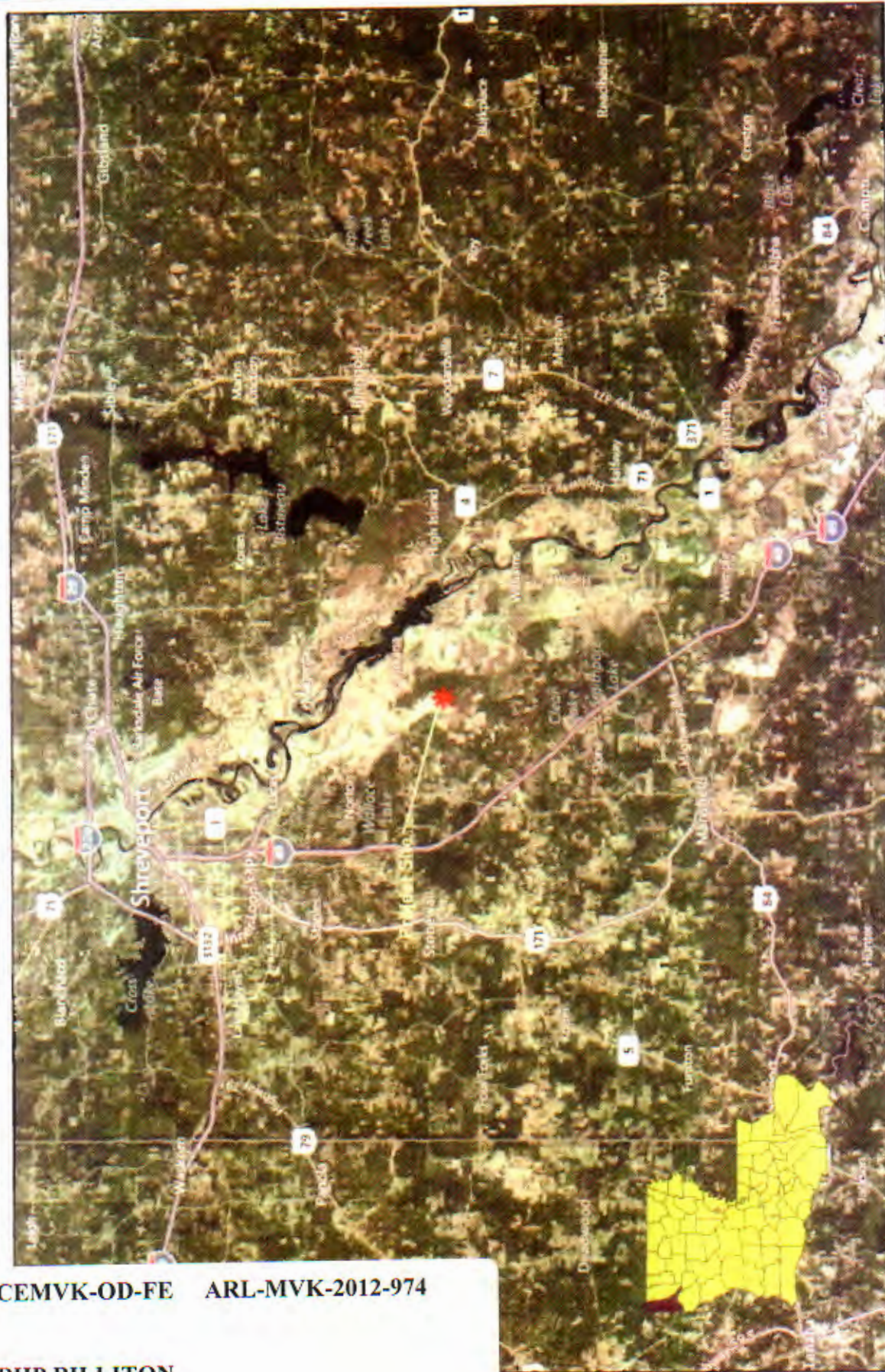
Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.

  
Anne S. Woerner  
Chief, Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch



CEMVK-OD-FE ARL-MVK-2012-974

BHP BILLITON



WID 787 TBD 28-15N-12W #4 AIL,  
WID 788 TBD 28-15N-12W #5 AIL,  
WID 876 TBD 33-15N-12W #4 AIL &  
WID 877 33-15N-12W #5 AIL  
Sections 28, 33 and 34, T15N, R12W  
Caddo Parish, Louisiana

# GENERAL LOCATION MAP

Bing Maps Aerial



1:500,000



Analyst LTholison  
Project 2012-0172





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